

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 10-15, 19-20, 22-23 and 25-33 are pending. Claim 21 has been reintroduced as new Claim 33, since it was not intended to be cancelled. Claims 5, 6, 9, 16, 17, 18, 21 and 24 were previously cancelled. Claim 33 is new. No claims are allowed.

The claims were rejected on formal grounds.

In a telephone discussion with the Examiner which is believed to be on August 8, 2007, the limitation as to "a time up to 5 minutes" in Claim 1, was discussed. It was agreed that this limitation did not cover zero time. Also discussed, was the fact that: (1) the expander chemical is removed by boiling as a result of the heating for the time up to 5 minutes; (2) that the expander chemical is essentially removed by the heating for the time up to 5 minutes; and (3) the graphite is expanded perpendicular to a basal plane of the precursor graphite into a worm like shape as a result of the heating. The combination of (1), (2) and (3) define the time of heating which must be sufficient to accomplish the result claimed.

It was explained in the interview that the RF

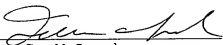
or microwave heating very rapidly expands the precursor graphite many times the volume of the precursor graphite due to the removal of the expander chemical. This is set forth in paragraph [0069] on page 15 of the application. The heating has to accomplish this result. The expansion can be 300 times or more. Claim 1 has been amended to clearly reflect the expansion of the expander precursor graphite into "a worm like shape" as a result of the heating as set forth in the specification in paragraph [0069]. It was this definition of the invention which the Examiner thought might be sufficient to define the invention.

Applicant submitted a Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 with the Amendment of February 10, 2006, to show the Examiner the worm like structures.

MSU 4.1-588
Appl. No. 10/659,577
Amdt. dated: October 26, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action mailed August 2, 2007

It is now believed that Claims 1-4, 7-8, 10-15,
19-20, 22-23 and 25-33 are in condition for allowance.
Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully,



Ian C. McLeod
Registration No. 20,931

IAN C. McLEOD, P.C.
2190 Commons Parkway
Okemos, Michigan 48864

Telephone: (517) 347-4100
Facsimile: (517) 347-4103
Email: ianmcld@comcast.net